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OLL83-2882

23 November 1983

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing on Growing Confrontation between Iran and Iraq

1. On 23 November 1983, Charles Trabandt, Chief Counsel of the Senate Engery Committee, was briefed by [redacted] of DDI/NESA on signs indicating that the Iraqis are planning major air and ground attacks on Iran. [redacted] explained that the Iraqis have moved some aircraft to the south in order to strengthen air defenses and may be planning a major air campaign against Khark Island in the near future. There was also discussion about Iraq's Super Etendard aircraft that presumably are operational now and could be used to attack tanker traffic in the Gulf. [redacted]

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2. [redacted] emphasized that he has no direct evidence that Iraq is going ahead with its attack plans, but added that the Iraqi regime is increasingly frustrated by its ongoing war with Iran and is looking for a way to break the stalemate. Mr. Trabandt requested that we keep him informed of any major developments that suggest the Iraqis are going to escalate the conflict with Iran. [redacted]

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